



Cowes yacht club



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

THE AROUND FRENCH ISLAND CATAMARAN CHALLENGE

1. RULES

The Race will be governed by the “rules” as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the rules of each class Association concerned, except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions, and these Sailing Instructions. The race is a designated category B event.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the downstairs notice board at Cowes Yacht Club.

3. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the down stairs notice board at Cowes Yacht Club, before 1030 hours on the day of the race and code flag “L” will be flown from the signal mast.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1

All signals made ashore will be displayed on the signal mast at Cowes Yacht Club.

Code flag “AP” with two (2) sound signals means the race is postponed. The postponement period ends when code flag “AP” is lowered with one (1) sound signal. A warning signal to begin the starting sequence will be made no later than 10 minutes after code flag “AP” is lowered.

Code flag “Q” with one sound signal means no boat shall leave the beach or if already at sea shall return to shore without delay.

4.2

Signals made afloat shall be from the official boat at the rounding mark. They shall be code flag “S” for shorten course or code flag “N” for abandoned race, if they are required.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACE

The race is scheduled to take place at Cowes Yacht Club as per Notice of Race. A re-sail shall be held as advised in the Notice of Race, if required.

6. RACING AREA

The racing area is North and East of Cowes on Westernport Bay, in the waters surrounding French Island. Boats are not to go lower than the Loelia shoal cardinal marks and the first cardinal mark at the entrance to Rhyll, or they will be deemed to be out of bounds and will be disqualified. Maps will be available at the Clubhouse on the morning of the race.

7. COURSE

The course is the circumnavigation of French Island in the direction determined by the course flag flying from the signal mast at Cowes Yacht Club (green flag - leave the island to starboard, red flag - leave the island to port). A rounding mark and the official boat will be positioned at the approximate halfway mark of the race or such shorter distance as may be necessary according to the prevailing wind conditions. Maps will be available at the Clubhouse on the morning of the race.

7.1 Shortened course

The course may be shortened by displaying code flag “S” from the official boat anchored near or adjacent to the rounding mark and a sound signal shall be made as the lead boat and subsequent boats approach the rounding mark. Boats must go around the rounding mark on the required side according to the course flag and proceed to the finish line.

8. MARKS OF THE COURSE

8.1

The rounding mark shall be a yellow or orange inflatable buoy anchored within close proximity to the official boat in that area.

8.2

The starting marks will be two yellow or orange inflatable buoys positioned directly in front of Cowes Yacht Club on the sand and joined by rope. They will be approximately 20 metres apart.

8.3

The finish marks will be the yellow 5 knot buoy (or in its absence, a yellow or orange inflatable buoy set approximately 200 metres off the beach in front of Cowes Yacht Club) and the sight line in the race control room.

9. STARTING PROCEDURE

The start of the race shall be “Le Mans Style” from the beach in front of Cowes Yacht Club. The start procedure shall be as follows:

TIME	SOUND SIGNAL
10 minute	one (1)
5 minute	one (1)
2 minute (note 9.1)	one (1)
0 minute	one (1)

9.1

At the 2 minute sound signal all skippers must be behind the starting line that will be marked out on the beach or they may be disqualified.

9.2

Boats may be held at the waters edge (or floating) for the start. Single handed boats may seek outside assistance from one person to hold their boat at the start so that they are not disadvantaged.

10. THE FINISH

The finish line is defined as a line between the 5 knot buoy (or in its absence, a yellow or orange inflatable buoy set approximately 200 metres off the beach in front of Cowes Yacht Club) and the sight line in the race control room of Cowes Yacht Club. The finish line shall be crossed from East to West to complete the race. This shall be the same if the race is shortened.

10.1

After finishing the race, boats are not permitted to re-cross the finish line or they may be disqualified.

11. PENALTY SYSTEM

11.1

Rule 44.2 is changed so that the 720 degree turn is replaced by a 360 degree turn.

11.2

A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under rule 31.2 or 44.1 shall complete an acknowledgement form at the race office within the protest time limit.

11.3

As provided in rule 67, the protest committee may, without a hearing, penalise a boat that has broken rule 42.

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1

The time limit for boats to round the rounding mark shall be **3.0 HOURS** from the starting time of the race or they will be disqualified. If no boat has passed the rounding mark within the rounding mark time limit, the race will be abandoned.

12.2

The total time limit for boats to complete the race shall be **6.0 HOURS** from the starting time of the race or they may be disqualified at the discretion of the sailing committee.

13. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

13.1

Protests and requests for redress shall be lodged in writing on a YV protest form (available at race control) with the officer of the day within one hour of the protesting yacht finishing.

13.2

The time and place of protest hearing(s) shall be posted on the notice board by 1800 hours. Protests shall be heard not later than the following day.

13.3

The Protest Committee will consist of a chairman and at least two members, convened by the officer of the day in consultation with the sailing committee.

13.4

Requests for redress against the race committee may be heard by a protest committee comprising club members, who do not have an interest in the outcome, subject to approval by the protester and race committee, otherwise a protest committee from outside the club will be appointed.

14. TROPHIES AND PRIZE PRESENTATION

All trophies and race prizes are presented at the discretion of the sailing committee.

The winner and minor placing's shall be determined on corrected time using their YV yardstick.

15. SAILING COMMITTEE

The sailing committee will be as specified by the rules and regulations of Cowes Yacht Club Inc.

16. SAFETY DECLARATION AND RETIREMENTS

16.1

The safety regulations prescribed in RRS AYF Addendum A, Special Regulations Part 2 (Off the Beach Boats) shall apply to all Off the Beach Boats competing in this event.

All boats entering are subject to the direction and control of the sailing committee and all boat owners shall make a declaration of safety compliance when registering their boat for the race. Cowes Yacht Club Inc reserves the right to inspect all competing boats for safety and reserves the right to refuse entry if the boat is deemed, for any reason, not to be fit to race. Acceptance of an entry is in no way a validation by Cowes Yacht Club Inc of the seaworthiness of a boat.

16.2

It is a condition of entry that all boats have adequate righting lines and that at least 1 litre of water per person is carried on board. Failure to comply with these conditions will result in disqualification. (All boats will be checked before the start.)

16.3

All skippers of boats that have finished must sign-off on the sheet required within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing. Failure to comply will result in the boat being DSQ without protest.

16.4

The skipper or crew of boats that do not finish, or which have finished and wish to indicate retirement, shall do so as soon as possible on the sign-off sheet indicating DNF. Similarly, boats that enter but do not start, shall sign-off on the sheet DNS as soon as possible. If boats are unable to make it back to Cowes Yacht Club, they should telephone before 1700 hours on (03) 5952 2330 and talk directly to the Officer of the Day to explain why. Failure to comply will result in DSQ without protest.

17. INDEMNITY

All those taking part in this race conducted by Cowes Yacht Club Inc do so at their own risk and responsibility. Cowes Yacht Club Inc is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted, or for the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment. In accordance with RRS 76, Cowes Yacht Club Inc reserves the right to refuse entry to any boat for any reason.

Attention is drawn to RRS 4 “Decision to Race” which states “A boat is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start, or continue racing.”

No liability is accepted by Cowes Yacht Club Inc, its officers, members and volunteers for the loss of life or property, personal injury or damage caused by participation in or arising out of this race. These sailing instructions in no way limit or reduce the complete and unlimited responsibility of a competitor being solely and entirely responsible for the management of the boat he or she is sailing.

18. INFORMATION SESSION

An information session may be given by the office of the day or his deputy. This will be done no later than 30 minutes before the start of the race. Notice of the commencement of this session will be given by an announcement over the loud speaker at Cowes Yacht Club.